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**Hard working South Carolinians are looking for job creation plans**

**BY BILL WEST**

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Congressman Joe Wilson tells the *Chronicle* he was both pleased and displeased with the State of the Union Address last week.

"The conditions across America leading up to this speech are quite serious," Wilson said. He cited double digit unemployment at an all time high of 12.6%.

He said hardworking families across the country are facing a difficult state of affairs.

"Like many of these families who tuned in to hear the president, I too was hoping to hear more concrete job creation plans," he said.

The Springdale resident said he was encouraged by the President's mention of a first-time homebuyers tax

credit, "But there are many more important proposals that we have presented to Speaker (Nancy) Pelosi that I hope will receive more bipartisan support — including the President's."

The former state senator said American families are concerned about immediate job creation in their communities and the debt that lawmakers continue to pawn off on the country's children and grandchildren.

"They want more than just rhetoric about the so-called stimulus and they want more than just a small, symbolic effort to cut spending," he told the *Chronicle*.

He said attacking "out-of-control Washington spending" will require a spending freeze based on 2008 levels. It will also require a com-

mitment from Speaker Pelosi and Senator (Harry) Reid to forego their 85% spending spike.

"On the issue of national security, I was pleased that the President reiterated the value of sending 30,000 more reinforcements to Afghanistan. I very much respect the President's decision to listen to our commanders on the ground as they aggressively pursue a multi-dimensional counter-insurgency strategy to secure Afghanistan."

The former military officer said, "For the sake of our mission, American families at home, and our brave men and women in uniform, I hope the President can rally Congressional leaders behind his strategy and our troops' mission."